



## Media Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Miami River Commission and University of Miami Students Partner to Beautify the Miami River**

**(Miami, FL)**- An estimated 75 students from the University of Miami (UM) will join the Miami River Commission (MRC) on Saturday, September 20, 11 am to 2 pm, for "National Gandhi Day," an annual service day where students around the nation are introduced to the spirit of volunteerism. During this MRC-sponsored and co-funded event, volunteers will help plant eight native trees and 140 flowering bushes donated by Vila and Sons, to create a new riverfront pocket park at the currently vacant parcel between 1675 NW North River Drive and the Southeast side of the NW 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge, as well as a pedestrian walkway. Other activities will include: painting the NW 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge infrastructure, spreading mulch and removing litter, debris and weeds.

"National Gandhi Day" marks the third of four volunteer events this year in which the MRC has partnered with UM to help beautify the Miami River Greenway. The first event, known as "Hope Day," was held on August 11 and generated much success, as over 20 UM students spread mulch, planted flowers, painted beneath the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge and removed litter, debris and weeds along the City of Miami-owned Miami River Greenway on South River Drive, between SW 2 ST and NW 1 ST; the second event, "Orientation Outreach," was held on Saturday, August 30. During this event, over 70 UM freshmen joined together to spread mulch, plant flowers, paint beneath the Flagler Street Bridge and surrounding infrastructure, and remove litter, debris and weeds along the on-road greenway. The last UM volunteer beautification event, known as "Hurricanes Help the Hometown," will be held on Sunday, October 12 along the City of Miami-owned Miami River Greenway on North River Drive, from NW 3rd Street to NW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Miami River Commission staff at 305-644-0544 or [miamiriver@bellsouth.net](mailto:miamiriver@bellsouth.net).